IN THE CLAIMS:

7. (Amended) A design support method, comprising:

managing a design file formed of a series of work procedure data, which is identified by ID and consists of at least one work procedure data portion, and figure element data to be formed on the basis of each work procedure data portion;

recording a work procedure data portion, which corresponds to figure element data to be referenced, as specific information linked with a standard design file by ID for identifying the work procedure data portion when reference from the standard design file to figure element data contained in another design file is determined;

retrieving a corresponding work procedure data portion within another design to file with ID, which is recorded in the specific information, used as a key in order to retrieve each corresponding work procedure data portion when reference in the standard design file is executed; and

comparing a work procedure data portion of specific information or figure element data which contents of another design file when a corresponding work procedure data portion is not retrieved by the retrieval and retrieving a corresponding work procedure data portion on the basis of the compared result.

8. (Amended) A recording medium storing a design support program and being computer-readable comprising:

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a module for managing a design file formed of a series of work procedure data, which is identified by ID and consists of at least one work procedure data portion, and figure element data to be formed on the basis of each work procedure data portion;

a module for recording a work procedure data portion, which corresponds to figure element data to be referenced, as specific information linked with a standard design file by ID for identifying the work procedure data portion when reference from the standard design file to figure element data contained in another design file is determined;

a first retrieval module for retrieving a corresponding work procedure data portion within another design file with ID, which is recorded in the specific information used, as a key in order to retrieve the each corresponding work procedure data portion when reference in the standard design file is executed; and

a second retrieval module for comparing a work procedure data portion of specific information or figure element data with contents of another design file when a corresponding work procedure data portion is not retrieved by the first retrieval module and retrieving a corresponding work procedure data portion on the basis of the compared result.

<u>REMARKS</u>

This preliminary amendment corrects minor informalities in the as-filed specification and in claims 7 and 8.

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